

Rattlesnake Creek Limited Access Timber Sale

June 19, 2006 Land Board

LOCATION OF SALE:

- Helena Unit (CLO) – Approximately 26 Miles northwest of Helena, Montana off highway 279.
- Lewis & Clark County – Section 36, T14N, R6W
- **Limited Access** – The surrounding Sieben Ranch has granted access to one individual for the sole purpose of salvaging timber on this section.

SALE VOLUME & ESTIMATED VALUE:

- **This is a salvage sale.** This sale would salvage dead and damaged Douglas-fir infested with western spruce budworm.
- The estimated sale volume is 1,000 MBF.
- This sale is being sold on a per thousand board foot basis due to the variation of tree weights, dead (1 – 3 yrs) vs. green) and the highly variable defect found in the dead timber.
- Negotiated price is \$190.00/MBF, for an estimated total value of \$190,000.00.
- In addition to the negotiated stumpage value, a fee of \$8.39/MBF for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 100% Common Schools Trust.

SALE & HARVEST TREATMENTS:

- The sale contains one harvest unit totaling 194 acres.
- Even-aged silvicultural methods such as intermediate thinning and seed-tree harvest would be employed.
- No old growth would be harvested.

HARVEST SYSTEMS:

- 57% Line Yarding
- 43% Ground Based

ROAD CONSTRUCTION:

- An existing road that is on private property would be used in part to access this sale. This one lane road is approximately 8.53 miles long and travels through several drainages. Nearly 1.51 miles of new temporary road construction would be necessary on State Trust Lands. This portion of the road system would be closed to motorized use by pulling fill material back to near slope grade and scattering stumps and debris.
- All roads on State Trust Lands would be constructed to current BMP's.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:

- Public scoping began in December 2005 with the mailing of the Initial Proposal to adjacent landowners, organizations, and interested parties. Legal notices were published in the Helena Independent Record in January of 2006. Concerns brought forward through the public scoping process have been addressed in the Environmental Assessment Checklist with no significant issues surfacing.

Comments were received from the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Dept and the Sieben Ranch.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, ISSUES AND MITIGATIONS:

- **Big Game** – Sight distance for hunters was an issue. FWP wanted to maintain understory trees within the sale area to decrease sight distances, thus providing protection for big game species. This is a salvage sale and generally only dead or dying trees are targeted for removal. Understory trees would be maintained where feasible.

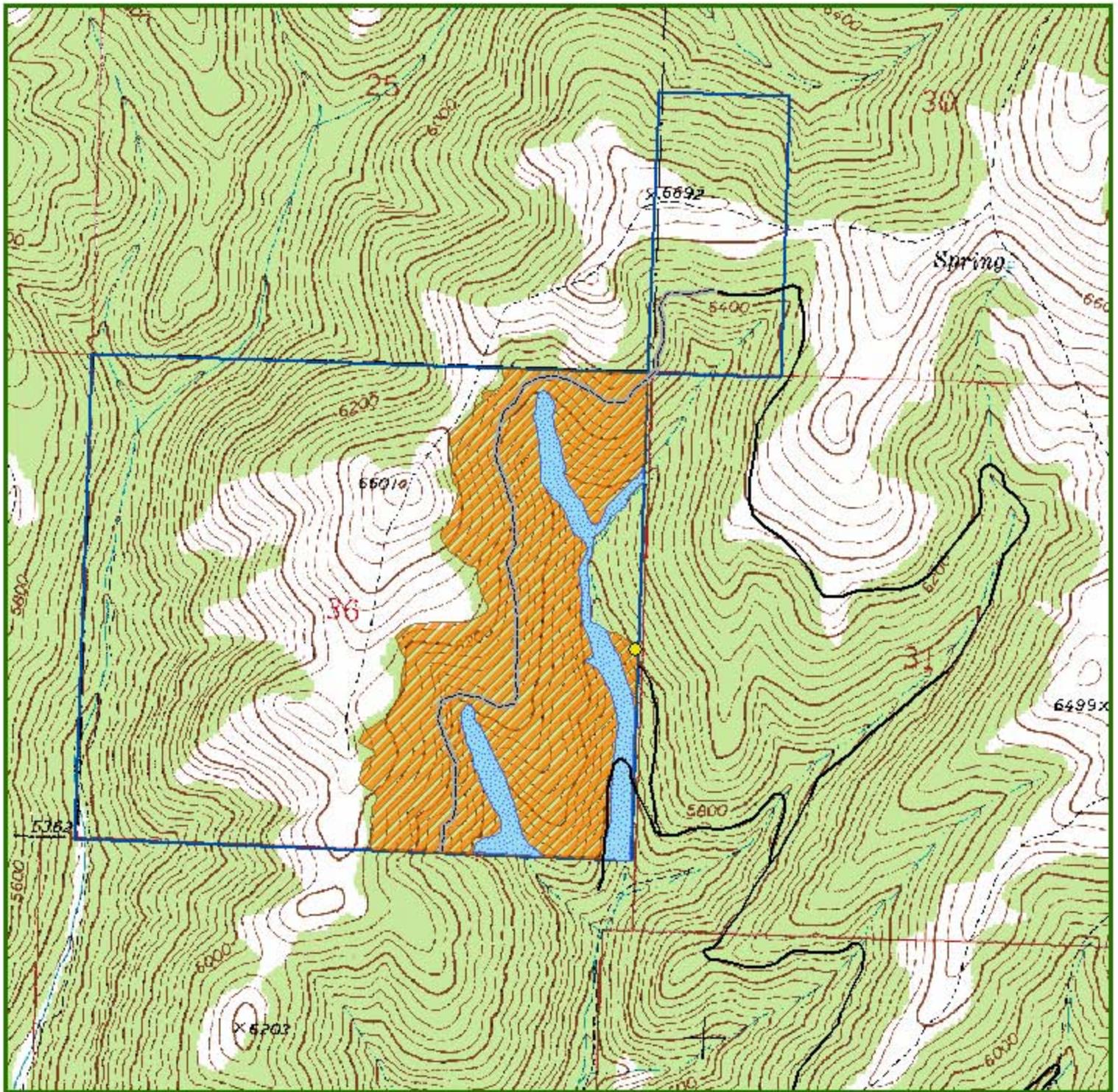
FWP would prefer that timber-harvesting operations do not occur from September 1st through November 30th as they have a Conservation Easement on adjacent private lands that allows for block grant hunting opportunities. This timing restriction is incorporated into the contract.

- **Silviculture** – The adjacent private landowner (Sieben Ranch) agreed that harvesting of dead and dying Douglas-fir infested with western spruce budworm was a good idea.
- **Access** – Concerns about roads being available for travel would be addressed by removing culverts at the end of the sale, and by closing the road with a physical barrier if the sale was not completed prior to hunting season.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Rattlesnake Creek Limited Access Timber Sale.

Rattlesnake Creek Timber Sale

Section 36, Township 14 North, Range 6 West



Mapped By: Shawn P. Morgan

Department of Natural Resources
and Conservation,
Helena Unit

1 inch equals 1,320 feet

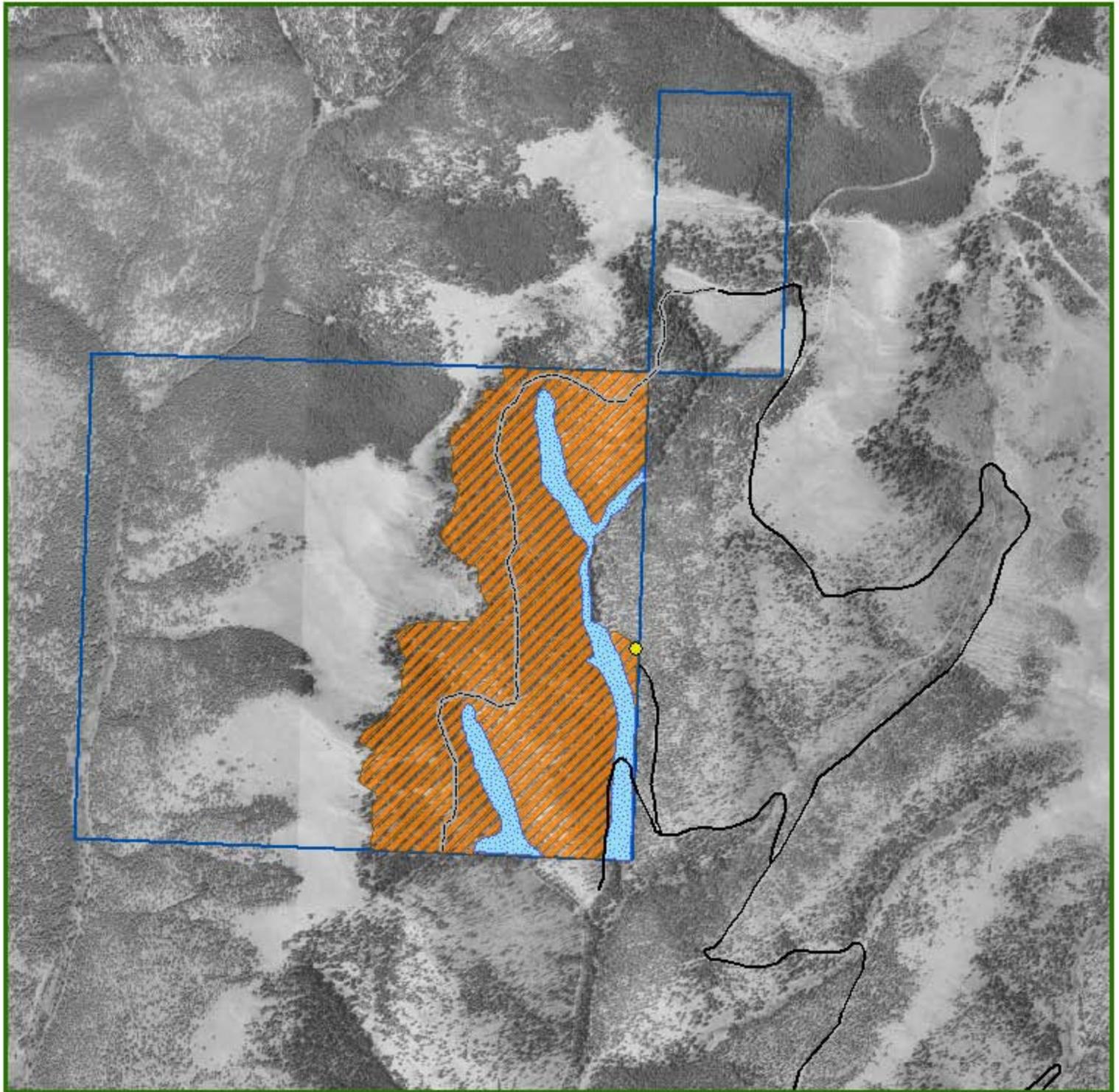


LEGEND

- Survey Corner
- New Road Construction - 1.51 Miles
- Access Road - 962 Miles
- Streamside Management Zone - 27 acres
- Timber Sale Area - 194 acres
- State Ownership

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